

# LAST CHANCE TO EARN FIVE BUCKS BY GOING PAPERLESS!



Customers who sign up through e-pay by September 30th to receive their statements via email instead of in paper format will receive a \$5 credit on their October billing statement. You must stay paperless for one year to keep the credit to your account. Existing paperless customers will also receive the \$5 credit.

THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS regularly meet the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at the PUD 1 office in Potlatch. For more information on meetings, agendas and minutes, please visit [www.mason-pud1.org](http://www.mason-pud1.org).

## MASON COUNTY PUD 1 COMMISSIONERS:

### DISTRICT 1

Karl Denison ..... (360) 898-2618

### DISTRICT 2

Ron Gold ..... (360) 426-9540

### DISTRICT 3

Jack Janda ..... (360) 490-1800

### GENERAL MANAGER

Steven Taylor..... (360) 877-5249



Have you signed up for the Email Notification List yet? Be the first to know about scheduled outages and other important PUD information by emailing [kristinm@mason-pud1.org](mailto:kristinm@mason-pud1.org) to join.


THE  
CONNECTOR FALL 2016




Doesewallips River



[www.mason-pud1.org](http://www.mason-pud1.org)

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It's hard to believe after the record heat we had in August that our cold stormy season is already here. We've had multiple customers already inquire about discounts for low income or senior customers. PUD 1 isn't able to offer discount programs due to our size. We run a really tight budget with just over 7,000 water and electric accounts and we simply don't have the economy of scale or any large commercial and industrial load customers to help offset the impacts of discounts to our revenue requirements. What we do have is a very helpful and productive Canal Comfort Fund. This fund is sustained entirely by generous customers who want to assist neighbors and families in need.

The PUD doesn't administer these funds directly. We have partnered with the Community Action Councils of both Mason and Jefferson counties to do that for us. We hold the fund drives and collect the donations and forward them onto those two organizations. What's really great is that 100% of the donations are applied to those in need- there is zero overhead expenses for administration. Each donation is made to that customer's

county and is specifically earmarked to help a neighbor in that county with assistance on their PUD 1 bill.

Last year, we reached out to you, our customers, to ask for your help in replenishing the funds for 2016 and you responded generously. Dozens of low income families and seniors were able to receive assistance to keep their power and water on. Despite the continued efforts and donations, the need is always greater than the supply. That is why we are continuing our second year of the Canal Comfort Fund drive this fall. We hope that you will consider rounding up your next payment and asking us to set aside the change to the Fund. We also are able to take one-time donations or even set up regular monthly donations on your statement. These donations are tax deductible and you will receive a receipt to file with your taxes each year that show your contribution.

If you are a family or individual in need, please reach out to your local Community Action Council. They will help you with the application process to see if you qualify. They also have other low income programs that can provide energy assistance and even energy efficiency for your home. The CAC of Mason & Thurston Counties has an office on Railroad Ave. in Shelton and can be reached at (360) 426-9726. OlyCap, serving Jefferson County, can be reached at (360) 385-2571.

Thank you again for your continued support of this program!

Kristin Masteller,  
*Director of Business Services*

# CUSTOMER APPRECIATION ★★ EVENT ★★

Join us to celebrate YOU, our customers, and kick off Public Power Week!

**Friday, September 30th  
11am to 2pm**

**FREE**

**Burgers,  
Soft Drinks,  
Ice Cream,  
LED Light  
Bulbs and  
more.**



**PUD 1 DISTRICT OFFICE**  
21971 N. Hwy 101 in Potlatch





MANAGER’S REPORT

We know that it is our responsibility to provide for ourselves and our families both in good times and in bad. Part of fulfilling that obligation is making preparations now to face whatever challenges may come our way. It is not enough to hope for the best; we must prepare for it. In the news lately, we have seen once again that Mother Nature can cause great damage in a little amount of time as violent storms, flooding and wild fires have ravaged several areas of the United States. This begs the question- are you prepared?

Each of us should prepare for natural and man-made disasters that are likely to occur in our respective areas by creating an emergency plan. Each plan should identify likely disasters, gather critical information, outline assignments and procedures, identify emergency communication methods and encourage friends and family members to prepare. As you make an emergency plan, consider each of these elements:

- Try to save and set aside emergency relief funds. Doing so will put us in a better position to help ourselves and help others during times of personal or widespread crisis.
- Educate ourselves on resources around us. If your water is contaminated, where can you go? The stores will likely be out. What if the power cannot be restored for one week? Two weeks? A month? Is there a community center nearby that can assist you?

“We do live in turbulent times. Often the future is unknown; therefore, it behooves us to prepare for uncertainties.”

– Thomas Morson

- Keep a reserve of food and other supplies. We can prepare for an emergency by building up a store of needed supplies to help carry us through a crisis.
- As you build and maintain your emergency supply, include the following items: clothing and bedding, drinking water, financial reserves, important documents, longer-term supply of basic food items, medication and first aid supplies, three-month supply of food that is part of your normal diet.
- Set up a way to communicate with family and friends following a disaster. Most places recommend having a check-in person out of the area or

even out of state that would likely not be impacted by the same disaster. Establish someone who can be your home base for communications for your family and friends.

- Obtain first aid training. To prepare for an emergency is to receive first aid, CPR and AED training through a certified program. Our local hospital district offers classes throughout the year.

These are just a few suggestions to prepare. I hope we don’t have to go through a major disaster, yet if we are all well prepared, we can come out of it together with less loss and suffering.



Steven Taylor, *General Manager*



## Duckabush Substation

Last fall the PUD started working on the Duckabush Substation. This is the substation in Jefferson County that serves the huge 34 mile stretch of Highway 101 along Hood Canal from Mike’s Beach to Walker Mountain.

The District officially acquired the substation from Bonneville Power Administration just over 10 years ago. Since then, evaluations have been done to determine the shape, safety and estimated life span of the 60+ year old sub.

Last year, we coordinated with BPA on an overnight outage and replaced one of Duckabush’s bushings. We tested the others and determined that they also need replacing. We also are working on a maintenance plan will hopefully extend the life of that sub for another decade, rather than do a full replacement at this time. However, a replacement will be on the horizon in the future. We need to find a way to not only increase the capacity for future growth in that area, but also be able to loop the power and run off either the new sub or Duckabush if the power goes out. Right now we have no other way to switch and feed power to those customers on the north end. We also want to make sure that the sub is outfitted with proper parts that are safe for our crew to work with. As we start scheduling maintenance, we will notify customers to let them know.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions about the sub or any other projects our crews are working on.

Darin Hall, *Director of Operations- Electric*

## SALMON OR RENEWABLE HYDROPOWER?

My father helped build the lower Snake River dams. I’m sure he would turn over in his grave if he knew what some environmental organizations are now proposing. For example, Wendy Gerlitz of the Northwest Energy Coalition (NWECC) recently opined that the region must choose between healthy populations of wild salmon and removing the Snake dams. NWECC’s solution is to remove the dams and replace them with more energy conservation and new wind/solar projects. In reality, salmon and dams, including the Snake dams, are co-existing and thriving - good news for those who care about restoring salmon and reducing carbon emissions.

No matter how many times NWECC makes their assertion, it simply doesn’t change the facts. Dams can’t be replaced by energy efficiency or new renewables. Power planners at the NW Power and Conservation Council analyzed Snake Dam removal. The Council’s analysis found that even if all cost-effective energy efficiency available in the region was acquired, fossil fuel generation would still be needed to replace the energy and capacity lost from removing the Snake dams.

Bringing on new intermittent wind and solar doesn’t help either. The federal hydro system backs up these resources when the wind stops or the sun goes away, but hydro has reached its limits. Tom Eckman, a retired top analyst from the Council, pointed out that developing new renewables requires building new gas plants to back them up, which does nothing to reduce carbon. That’s the region’s “dirty little secret in the clean energy game,” Eckman noted.

This makes NWECC’s position even more mystifying. For an organization that cares about climate change, the Council concluded that removing the Snake dams with fossil fuel generation would add 3 to 4 million tons of carbon to our skies EVERY YEAR. In fact, removing the Snake dams is likely the single most damaging action the region could make. In addition to clean low cost power, the dams provide irrigation for agriculture, barge transportation, flood control and recreational

opportunities. They are the economic engine of Washington. Yet, Ms. Gerlitz says that it is dams that are creating a threat to salmon - pointing to last year’s hot temperatures and laying blame on the dams’ reservoirs. Once again, she is entirely off-base. The dams didn’t “do in” the sockeye last year. Super El Niño did by hitting the Northwest with a combination of low flows and persistently hot temperatures. In fact, a NOAA Fisheries report on the tragic loss of sockeye last year concluded that the dams helped keep river temperatures cooler through most of the migration season. Interestingly, the Fraser River in British Columbia also has experienced severe sockeye population crashes some years and there aren’t any dams to blame there.

So, how are the salmon doing? This year, with more normal river conditions, the sockeye have returned in droves with over 342,000 adults making their way above Bonneville Dam including Snake River sockeye. Chinook returns have been good and nearly a million fall Chinook are forecasted to return, which is very good indeed. Young salmon migrating downstream are doing well too. Looking at the federal dams on the Columbia and Snake rivers, survivals are high, averaging 97% percent or better at the dams. Operational changes and new fish slides are helping speed young salmon on their way, making for a safer trip.

The facts and analyses that have been done, exhaustively, over many years don’t support removal of the dams from a climate change, salmon restoration or economic perspective. Although, I’m sure the emotional rhetoric for dam removal will continue, regardless of the amount of scientific data and facts.

Hydro power is not the problem but the solution to a sustainable environment. This is why it needs to be considered an eligible renewable resource in existing and future legislation. That’s my take.

Karl Denison,  
*Commissioner District 1*



It’s not just a dam.  
It’s 90% of our  
renewable energy.

Sit back, relax and take a breath of fresh air. There aren’t too many parts of the world where you can do that anymore. But in the Pacific Northwest, we’re lucky. Not only are we blessed with incredible natural beauty, we also have an abundant supply of renewable energy. In fact, hydropower produces 90 percent of our renewable energy and, as a nice little byproduct, keeps 100 percent of our air clean.

